

Using ACS Data to Explore Native American Populations: A Closer Look at Tribal Census Tracts

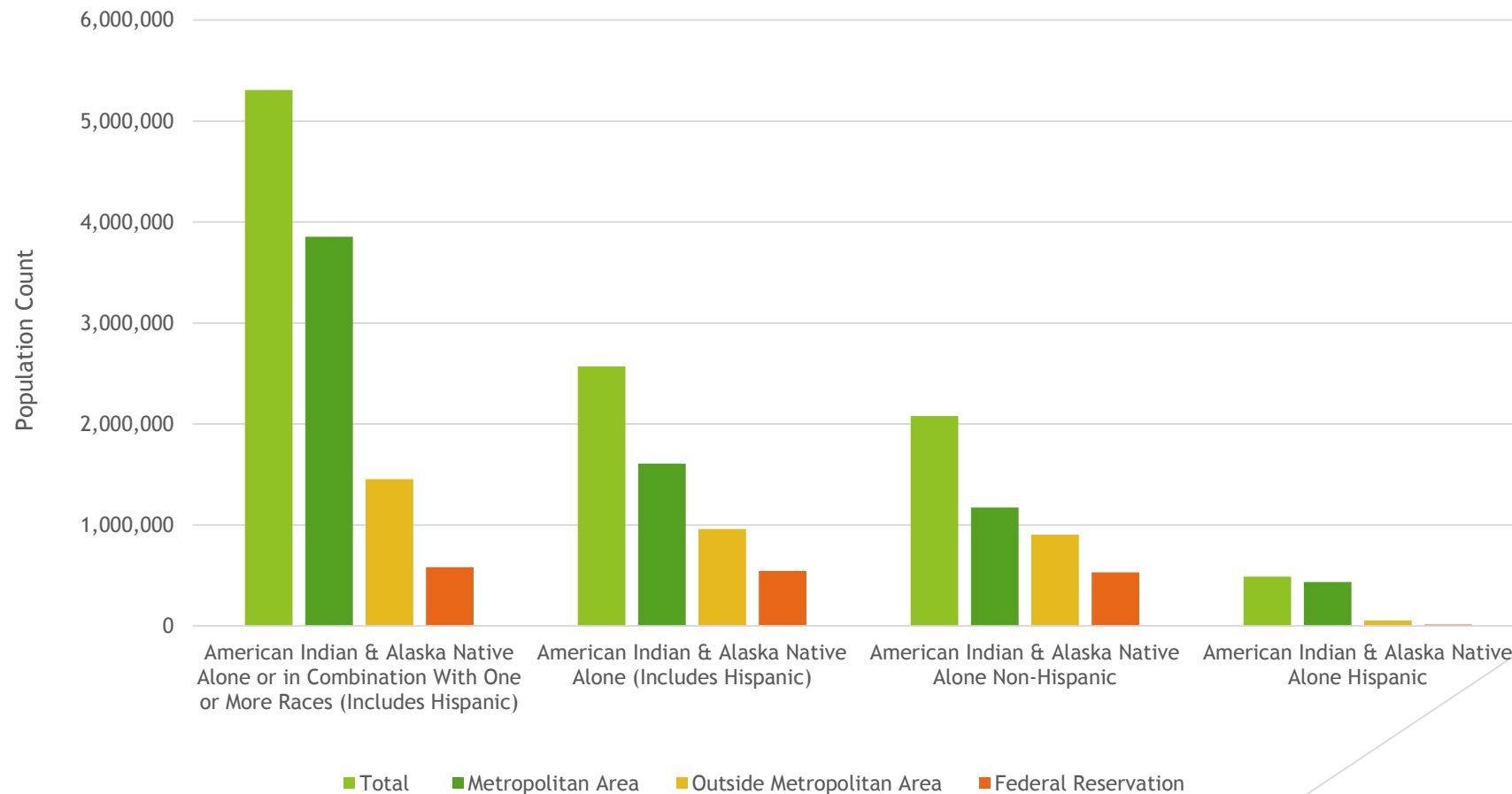
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Housing Assistance Council

ACS Data Users Conference 5/12/17



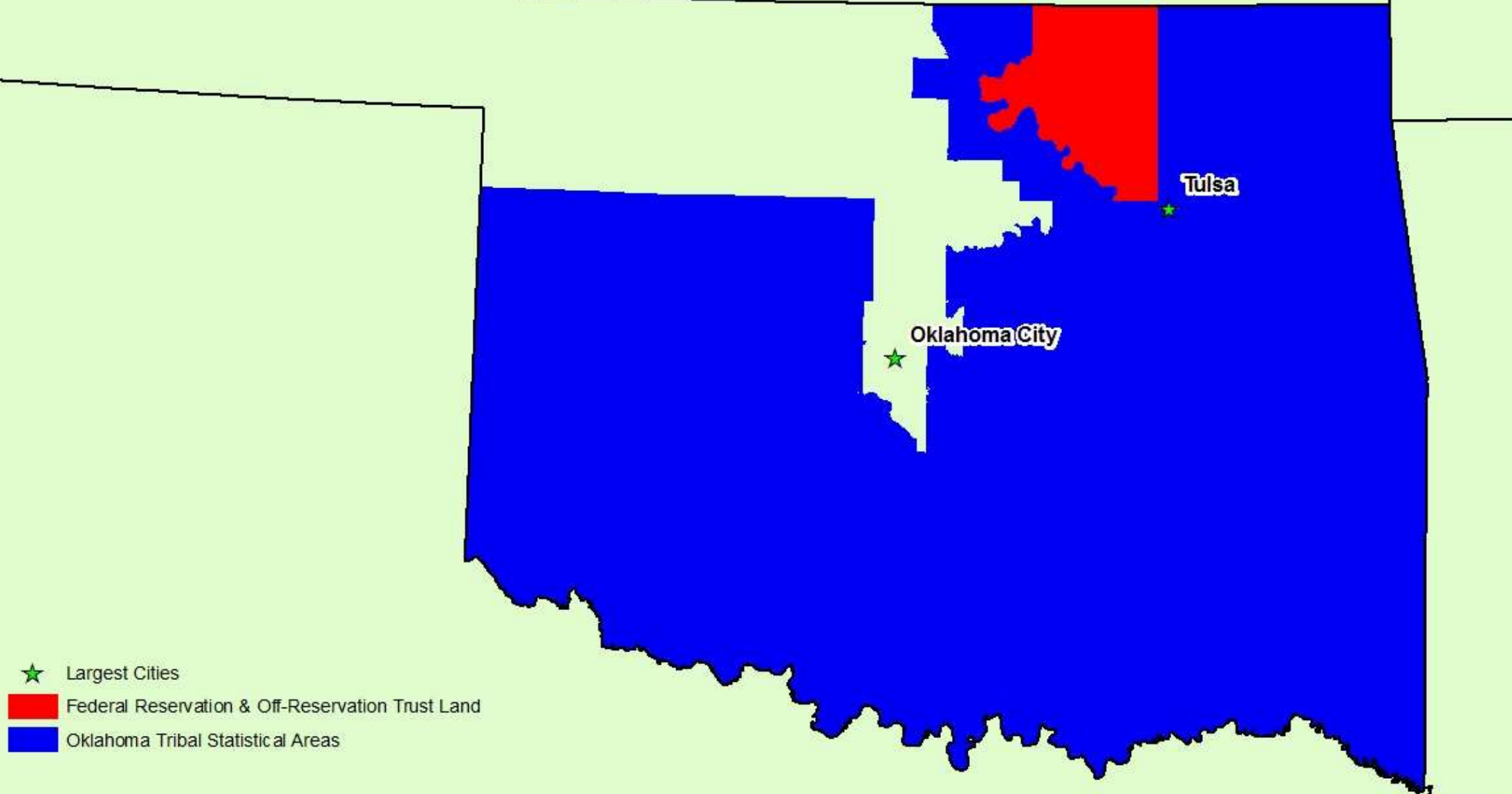
American Indian and Alaska Native Population Estimates



Geography Challenges

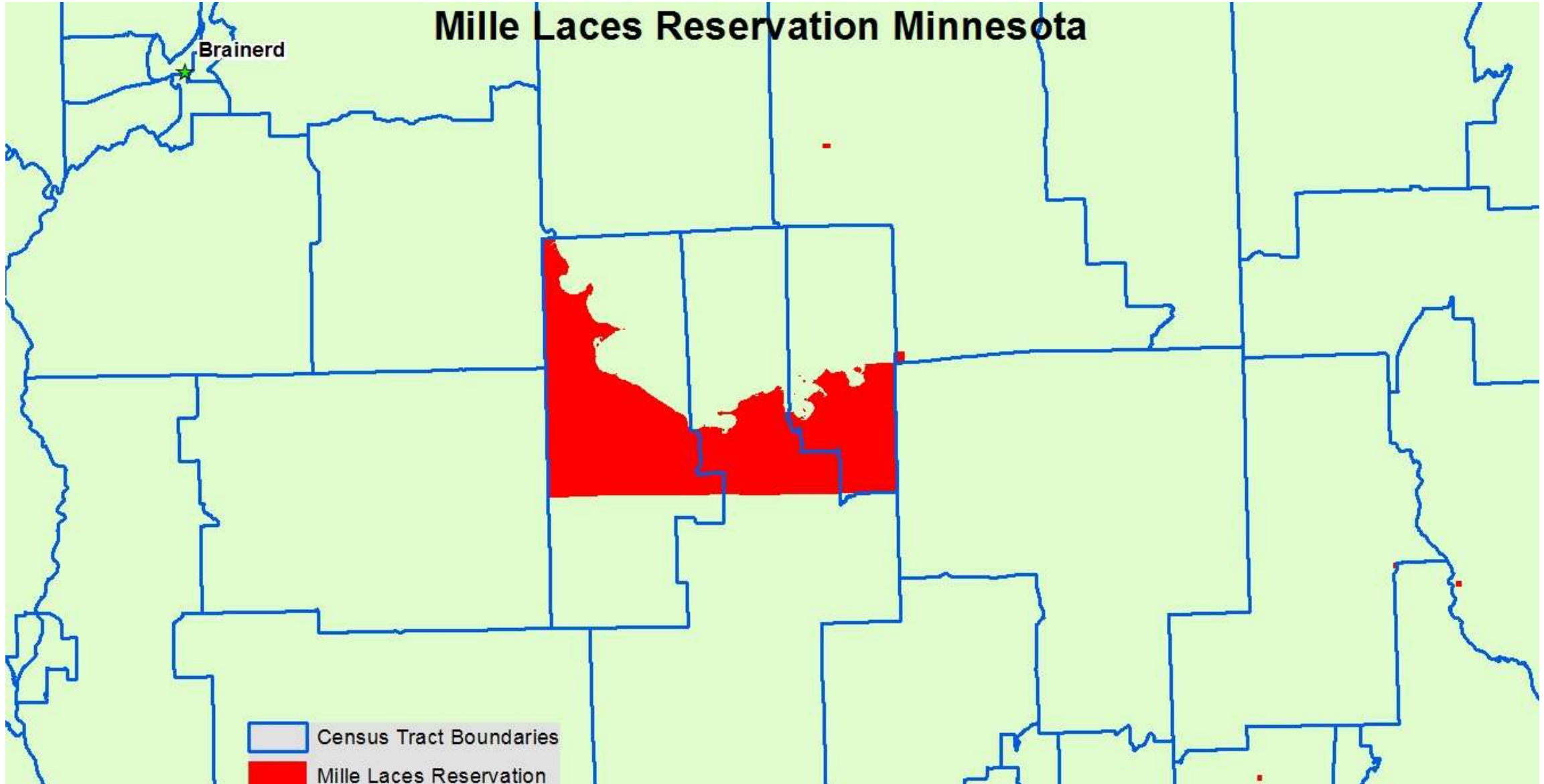
- ▶ The American Indian and Alaska Native population is small for most geographies - Hard to identify geographies where they represent a large portion of residents?
- ▶ Census identifies multiple geographies for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Areas - What to include?
- ▶ Census specified American Indian and Alaska Native boundaries intersect census tract and county boundaries - How to link to other data?

American Indian Geographies in Oklahoma



Mille Lacs Reservation Minnesota

Brainerd

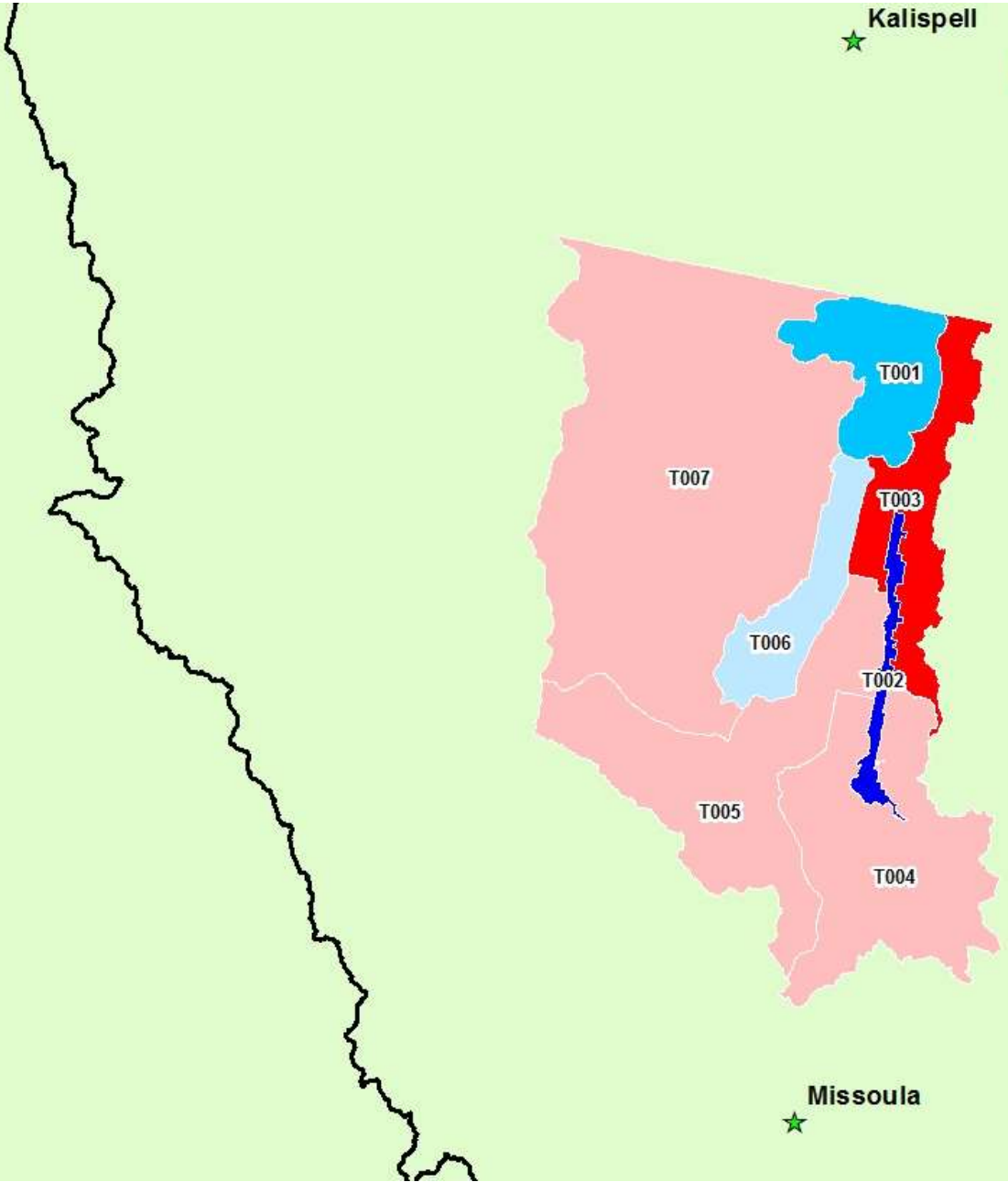


- Census Tract Boundaries
- Mille Lacs Reservation

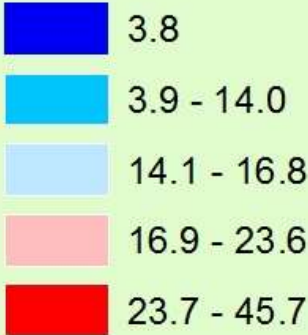
Census Federally Recognized Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust land Subdivisions: Tribal Tracts

- ▶ Subdivide federally recognized American Indian reservation and off-reservation trust lands
- ▶ There are approximately 2,500 people per tract
- ▶ 481 tribal tracts associated with 325 reservations and located in 33 states
- ▶ Approximately 53 percent of the population in tribal tracts identify as American Indian or Alaska Native alone
- ▶ Of the 325 reservations, only 51 have two or more tribal tracts

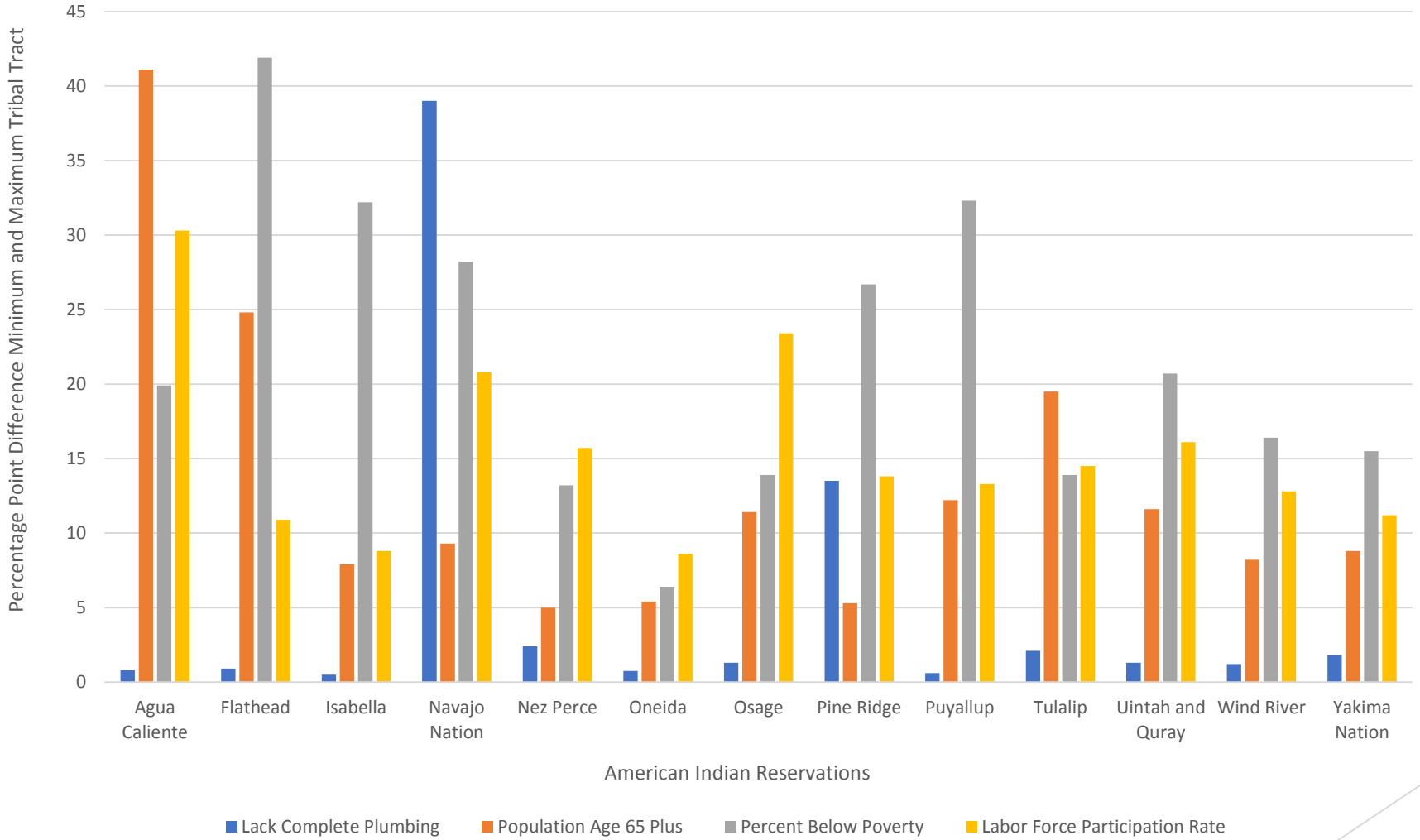
Flathead Reservation, MT Tribal Tracts Percent Population in Poverty



Percent in Poverty



Variability in Reservation Tribal Tract Estimates



Tulalip Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA by Tribal Tracts

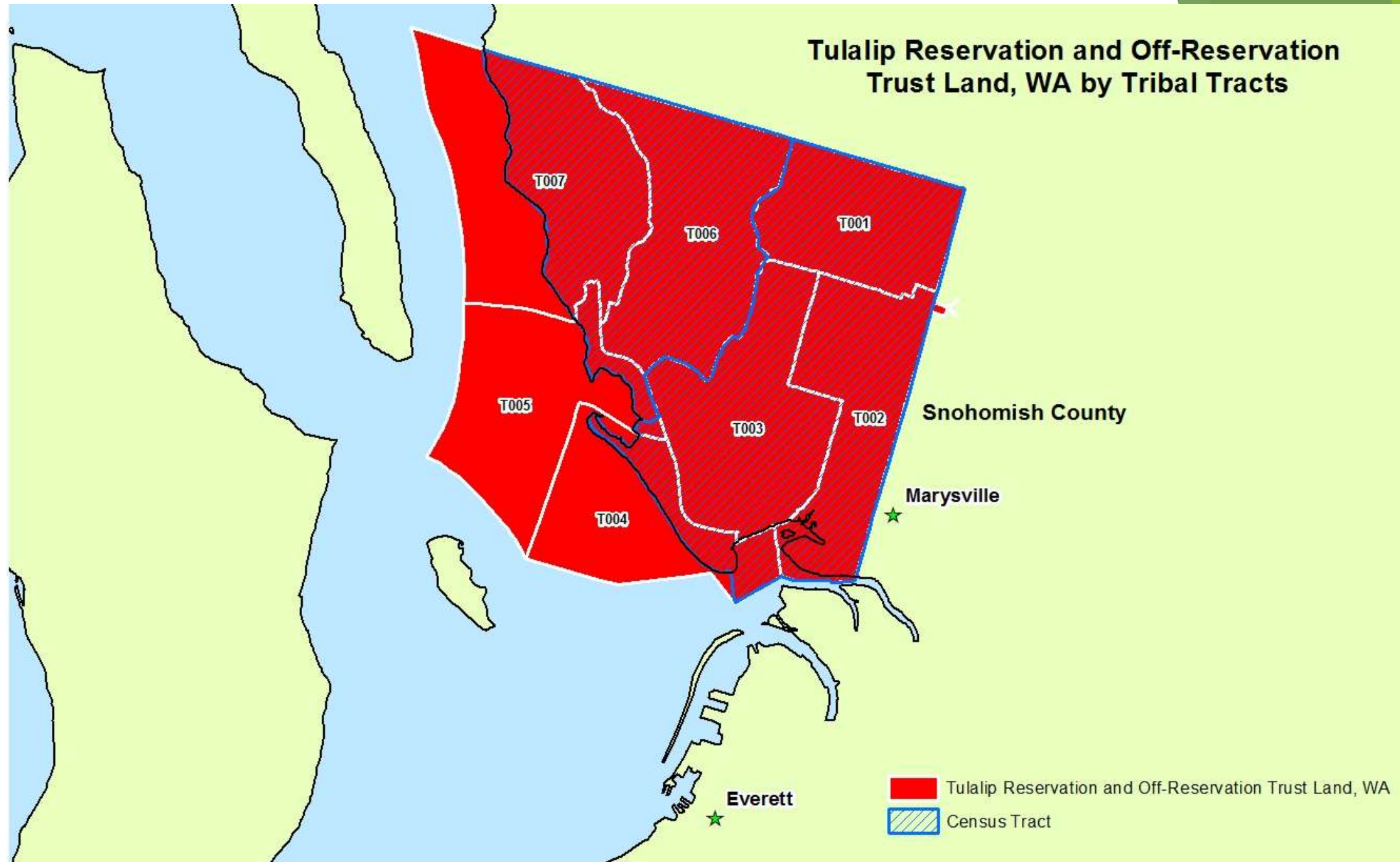
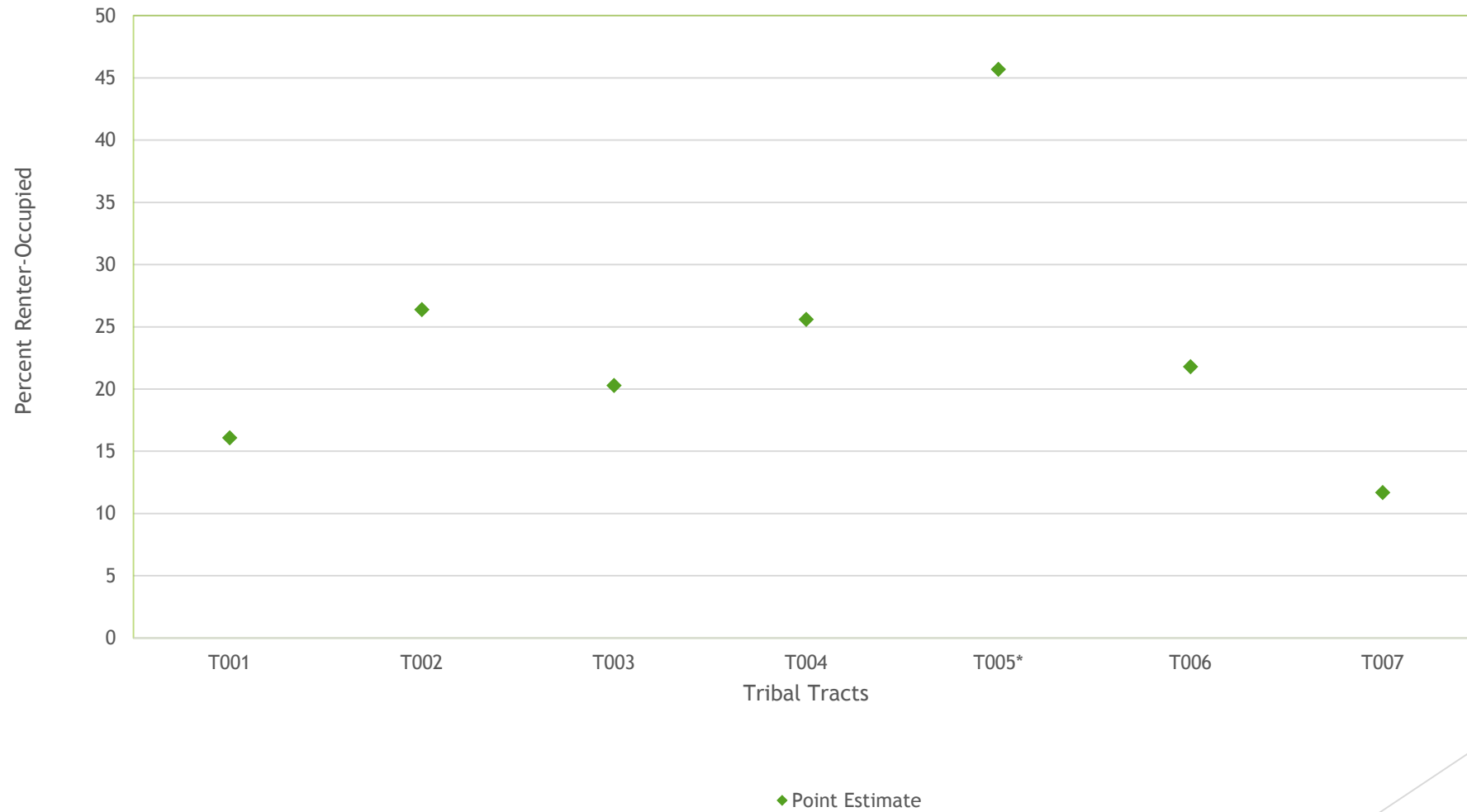


Figure 4. Tulalip Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA
Tribal Tracts Percent Renter Occupied Estimates



* Statistically Significant Difference, 90 percent alpha, from all other Tribal Tract Estimates.

Tribal Block Groups

- ▶ Smaller subdivisions can provide for more variation and precise exploration.
- ▶ Approximately 66 percent of reservations only have one tribal block group
- ▶ Larger margins of error when working with smaller geographies, average of approximately 1,200 people per block group.

Conclusion

- ▶ Significant challenges exist to working with small populations
- ▶ Tribal tracts offer a way to more closely explore larger reservations
- ▶ Variability exists across tribal tracts allowing for meaningful findings
- ▶ Tribal block groups could possibly provide even more information